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Attachments: ORD weekly Update September 27.docx

Administrator,

Yesterday, ORD hosted a town hall with all staff. We discussed our recently released ORD Strategic Plan, our Draft Workforce Strategy, how ORD is approaching Lean management, and updates on restructuring our administrative and science coordination offices. Chris Robbins and I are currently in Oregon visiting our Corvallis and Newport Labs.

Hot issues

Updated SmokeSense Mobile Application Now Live

The updated ORD-developed [SmokeSense](#) mobile application is now available for Android and Apple phones. SmokeSense is part of a citizen science public health study that will further investigate the extent to which wildfire smoke exposure affects health and productivity, identify what people are willing to do to reduce their exposure, and develop health risk communication strategies that improve public health outcomes. Updates include additional map layers with detailed information about fires and smoke, 24-hour forecasts of smoke and ozone from the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, educational stories in a component called Smoke Smarts, along with updated graphics, user tutorials, and information buttons.

Meeting with California Department of Toxic Substance and Control

On September 25, ORD met with the California Department of Toxic Substance and Control (DTSC) staff to discuss California's use of EPA's Consumer Product Category Database (available through the CompTox Chemicals Dashboard) and the SHEDS-HT model. DTSC plans on using the SHEDS-HT results to support selection of priority product categories and further prioritization or evaluation of products and chemicals. These activities will directly support California's Safer Consumer Products program stated goal of identifying and prioritizing chemicals in consumer products with the potential to cause adverse impacts on public health and environment.

State and Regional Support: PFAS analytical technical support

At the request of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Region 5 and ORD have completed the first year of a study on the potential impacts of composting on groundwater. The contaminants of interest are PFAS, metals, semi-volatile organics, volatile organics, pesticides, herbicides, nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium), and fecal indicators. ORD has provided analytical and data verification support for this effort and will provide a technical review memorandum to Region 5 later this year. Region 5 has granted the State of Minnesota's request for a second year of data analysis and ORD will continue to support this effort.

Upcoming Major Decisions and events

Fentanyl decontamination research to be presented at IEHA Conference

This week in Evansville, IN, ORD is participating in a round table discussion on fentanyl cleanup as part of the [Indiana Environmental Health Association Fall Conference](#). ORD will discuss EPA's technical support role and preliminary

fentanyl decontamination results as part of a set of presentations by Marion County Public Health Department, Indiana State Department of Health, Crisis Cleaning Inc., and EPA Region 5. Illicit fentanyl activities that result in contamination of building materials are increasing. Remediation operations will benefit from improved knowledge on in situ neutralization options of fentanyl on building materials. The results of this research will inform the EPA response community as well as other Federal, State, Tribal and Local agencies on the means to decontaminate, and clear for re-occupancy indoor environments contaminated with fentanyl.

Reductions Under the Clean Air Act

On October 3 and 4, 2018, in Chapel Hill, NC, a consortium of trade organizations including the American Petroleum Institute, American Forest and Paper Association, American Wood Council, and the National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, with support from Exxon Mobil Corporation, is sponsoring a symposium focused on the question: *Have reductions in particulate matter resulted in intended decreases in mortality?* Three competitively selected research teams will respond to this question, using the same Medicare mortality dataset, and data on air pollutants and meteorological factors from 1999-2013. ORD's Ana Rappold was competitively selected as a member of the both the Project and Proposal Review Committees, and will serve as Lead Discussant for the session titled, 'Causal Estimates of the Relationship Between Fine Particulate Matter and Mortality Using Attainment Status Under the Clean Air Act Amendments.'

Cooperative Agreement with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

ORD's new five-year cooperative agreement with the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) will be available for host offices. EPA host offices provide the funding for these Fellows. These are one-year placements with the option to be extended for an additional year. To learn more about ASPPH, go to: <https://www.aspph.org/about/>.